

HOUSE RESOLUTION 155
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Roger Blue of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Roger Blue; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue will live forever in our hearts and minds as a compassionate gentleman who was a staunch advocate for the rights of developmentally disabled citizens; and

WHEREAS, Roger Blue proudly served his nation with acumen and acuity in the United States armed forces as a U.S. Army Intelligence officer at the Pentagon before receiving an honorable discharge in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Roger Blue began his meritorious career as an advocate for the developmentally disabled in 1968, working with the ARC of Spokane, Washington; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Roger moved to Georgia and worked for three outstanding years with the ARC of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary work in this challenging field landed him a job as the executive director of the ARC of Tennessee, a post he proudly held for 22 meritorious years; and

WHEREAS, during his remarkable tenure with the ARC, Roger Blue was a moving force behind key legislation affecting mentally challenged citizens, including the 8 person or less group home bill and a death penalty exemption for mentally challenged individuals; and

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WHEREAS, a stalwart supporter of reform in mental retardation issues, Roger Blue successfully drafted and passed legislation that enacted a Tennessee Guardianship and Trust Program; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Roger Blue was working assiduously against the proposed legislation to merge the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation into the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Roger Blue leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Roger Blue was the proud parent of Bonnie and Gage; he was also the loving grandfather of Tyler, Alexandra and Caitlin; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Mr. Roger Blue, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Roger Blue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.